

producing an affordable and effective therapeutic antibody-based cancer drug, for treating solid tumours of epithelial origin, such as erupting in the head and neck;

(b) if so, the details of success rate achieved in this regard; and

(c) the steps Government have taken for patenting and popularizing of this drug?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) According to the information collected by Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi from Tata Memorial Hospital, Mumbai, monoclonal antibody drug which is useful for treatment of head and neck cancer is produced by a Cuban company which hold its patent right. A Bangalore based pharma company has been permitted to manufacture & market the drug on 30.8.2006.

Regulations to control toxic and unbranded toys

1120. SHRIMATI SYEDA ANWARA TAIMUR:
SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that unbranded toys have been found to have much higher levels of cadmium which is a neurotoxin and it can lead to brain damage amongst children;

(b) if so, whether any action has been taken or contemplated to be taken by Government to save millions of our vulnerable children who are being exposed to risk everyday; and

(c) whether Government would take into consideration the first public study about presence of lead on PVC by Arizona Health Department in 1999 so that the Bureau of Indian Standards could lay down standards to be enforced on the toy manufacturers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Recently, a news

item appeared in the Hindustan Times on 19.9.2006 wherein a report published by an NGO Toxics Links has been quoted. This study, which reports high levels of cadmium and lead in PVC used in soft toys is required to be authenticated/validated and analysed in the context of the regulatory mechanism. Bureau of Indian Standards has laid down some safety codes for the toy manufacturers which prescribe maximum acceptable element migration from toy materials.

Cancer among children

†1121. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 60 to 70 thousand new cases of cancer among children are coming into light every year in the country and out of them 50 to 60 per cent patients die;

(b) whether none of the hospitals in the country exclusively caters to the needs of the children and there are nominal number of medical apparatuses and specialists available in all the hospitals;

(c) if so, whether keeping in view the increasing number of cases of cancer among the children, Government would provide appropriate medical apparatuses and specialists in all the hospitals;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether Government would also formulate a policy for the treatment of cancer among children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) According to the Indian Council of Medical Research, Delhi, the data from Population Based Cancer Registry, shows that approximately 25000 new cases of cancer occur among children and 20% (approximately) of them die to cancer.

(b) to (d) Health is State subject. However, there is Kalawati Children Hospital attached to Lady Hardinge Medical College under the Central Government. In addition, the Central Government hospitals like All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and Safdarjung Hospital, New Delhi, Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education & Research, Chandigarh,

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.